

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TAGS: TATT, TBIO, TECH, SENV, EPAP, EAID, GB

SUBJ: GABONESE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC AND

TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH: REQUEST FOR COLLABORATION AND

POSSIBLE BILATERAL AGREEMENT

1. PRESIDENT BONGO HAS WRITTEN TO AMBASSADOR CONCERNING RECENTLY CREATED GABONESE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH (CENAREST) ASKING FOR USG ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF CENTER, COLLABORATION IN CERTAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH, EVENTUAL SIGNATURE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT AND SUGGESTING ORGANIZATION OF MEETING BETWEEN AMERICAN AND GABONESE EXPERTS IN LIBREVILLE.

2. CENAREST WAS CREATED IN 1977 BY PLACING RESEARCH INSTITUTES OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND PHARMACOPEIA; AGRONOMY AND FORESTRY; TECHNOLOGY; HUMAN SCIENCES; AND TROPICAL ECOLOGY UNDER ONE UMBRELLA. BONGO'S LETTER ESPECIALLY REQUESTED US PARTICIPATION WITH INSTITUTES OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND PHARMACOPEIA, TECHNOLOGIC RESEARCH AND AGRONOMIC AND FORESTRY RESEARCH.

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3. WE HAVE VISITED CENAREST IN ATTEMPT TO GET SOME MORE SPECIFIC IDEA OF TYPE OF COLLABORATION SOUGHT WITH US SCIENTISTS AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ALMOST ANY FORM PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INPUT WOULD BE WELCOMED. CENAREST DIRECTOR STATED THAT PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE WAS HELP IN DEFINING APPLIED RESEARCH GERMANE TO GABONESE SITUATION. GOG HAS ALSO APPROACHED FRENCH BODIES FOR

COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR TROPICAL ECOLOGY INSTITUTE
AT MAKOUKOU BUT BECAUSE OF LACK OF EXPERIENCE DOES NOT
KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT GETTING IN TOUCH WITH AMERICAN
SCIENTISTS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
PRELIMINARY JUDGEMENT FROM DEPARTMT'S OR AID'S
OFFICES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ABOUT POSSIBILITIES
PROMOTING SOME SORT OF INTERCHANGE BETWEEN CENAREST
AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BODIES IN
US. IT ALSO OCCURS TO US THAT SOME PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS
OR INDIVIDUALS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN GABONESE
ACTIVITIES IF THEY WERE AWARE OF OPPORTUNITY. FROM
OUR END WE WILL EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF PERHAPS USING
ONE IV GRANT FROM FY 79 PROGRAM TO SEND SCIENTIST
FROM ONE OF CENAREST INSTITUTES TO US.

5. DECLASSIFY ON RECEIPT.TIENKEN

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